

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /113 W
----- 012520

R 241135 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3238

CINCPAC

COMUSMACV

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2193

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CASC, LA, VN

SUBJECT: USPWS; PRESS COVERAGE OF FINAL RELEASE

REF: VIENTIANE 2190

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT MANY OF THE PROMINENT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS USUALLY WORKING OUT OF SAIGON ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN VIENTIANE WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS. TRAVEL TO VIENTIANE WAS PROMPTED BY ASSURANCE OF DRV MEMBER TO FPJMC THAT THE JOURNALISTS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL TO HANOI TO COVER FINAL RELEASE OF USPWS. THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED HERE ASSURE US THAT DRV OFFER WAS CONVEYED MORNING OF MARCH 23 IN SAIGON, WELL AFTER PRISONER RELEASE/ TROOP WITHDRAWAL IMPASSE WAS REACHED IN FPJMC.

2. DRV EMBASSY HERE HAS NOT ISSUED VISAS TO ANY OF THE JOURNALISTS PRESENTLY IN VIENTIANE. WALTER CRONKITE, WHOSE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE THROUGH DRV DELEGATION IN PARIS, INFORMED EMB OFFS THIS MORNING THAT HIS VISA WOULD NOT BE ISSUED BECAUSE PW RELEASE WOULD NOT OCCUR OVER WEEK- END AS SCHEDULED. HE INFORMED US THAT JOURNALIST
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GROUP IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR ROYAL AIR LAOS CHARTER FLIGHT TO HANOI. HE TENTATIVELY PLANS TO REMAIN IN VIENTIANE FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO SEE IF PW RELEASE IMPASSE IS RESOLVED, IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD HOPE TO JOIN GROUP ON CHARTERED FLIGHT TO HANOI.

3. WASHINGTON POST'S TOM LIPPMAN INFORMED EMBOFF THAT DRV CONSIDERS IT HAS BEEN UPSTAGED BY WORLD- WIDE COVERAGE OF HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES AT CLARK AFB AND IN U. S. THEY ARE, THEREFORE, ENCOURAGING NEWSMEN TO COVER FINAL RELEASE AT GIA LAM AIRPORT TO GET SOME MILEAGE FOR THEMSELVES.
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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